



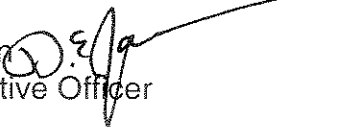
County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

April 28, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 2783 (Simitian), as amended on March 31, 2004, would allow counties the option, upon adoption by the Board of Supervisors, to increase recording fees on real estate documents up to \$2 to fund programs to deter, investigate and prosecute civil proceedings involving the financial abuse of elder and dependent adults through fraudulent real estate transactions.

This program is modeled on existing law which permits counties to increase the recording fees on real estate transactions by \$2 for distribution to the District Attorney and local law enforcement to investigate, and prosecute real estate fraud crimes. The County has participated in the existing program for nine years; however, none of the revenue generated by the fee is available to the Department of Mental Health's Public Guardian Bureau. The Public Guardian works with Adult Protective Services and County Counsel to seek civil remedies for victims of elder abuse. The Registrar-Recorder's staff indicates that the existing program generated \$6 million in the last fiscal year. Adoption of this new program could be expected to generate a similar amount for the Public Guardian and County Counsel for the civil prosecution of fraudulent real estate transactions.

Because this program would support a viable civil prosecution system to assist elder and dependent adult victims of real estate fraud, DMH recommends that the County support AB 2783, and we concur. Consistent with county adoption of the existing program for criminal prosecution established by SB 537 (Hughes) of 1995, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 2783.**

Each Supervisor
April 28, 2004
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AB 2783 is sponsored by the author and supported by the California Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, and Public Conservators; AARP; the Trusts and Estates Section of the State Bar of California; and California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform. It is opposed by the California Land Title Association. AB 2783 is set for hearing on April 28, 2004 in the Assembly Local Government Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Local 660
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities
 City Managers Associations
 Buddy Program Participants